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LB 114

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, all these amendments are on your gadget. These amendments, these first ones, were crafted by me when I was in my improve-the-bill mode, but I've assured some people in the culture corner that I'll be out of that mode at some point. I see things in the bill that I haven't touched yet, and by the bill I mean the green copy, that I'll get to later. Right now I'm dealing with some changes to the proposed committee amendments. This particular one would be found on page 1 of the committee amendment at line 8. This portion of the committee amendment is labeled Section 5. It says the following, In order to further the public policy of deterring minors from obtaining or consuming alcoholic liquor, persons under 21 years of age may be authorized to assist law enforcement in these checks that they make. What we're talking about in this language is intent language. It is not an operational portion of the bill in terms of the kind of language that says thou shalt not, and if you do, then you'll be punished. Because there are circumstances under which a minor is allowed to obtain and consume liquor without violating the law, this intent language should be made accurate. If the policy of the state of Nebraska is to prevent and deter young people from obtaining or securing or consuming alcoholic liquor in all cases when they're under 21 years of age, it would be a different matter. But the Legislature has carved out exceptions. Young people can consume liquor at home. I guess the family that drinks together and clinks together thinks together, and after they get through clinking, drinking and thinking, they may pray together and stay together. But we get to the praying together and staying together when we go to church because they can drink at church also. It seems to me that if consumption of alcoholic liquor is such an evil, we should not encourage and authorize young people to consume this evil substance at the places where they should go to be protected from evil. So where are the two places they can consume this evil brew? At home and at church. When I was a child, they had this song about Jesus wanting people for a sunbeam, for some reason or other. And in every way you tried to please him, at home, at school, at play. Well, you can't drink at play. You can't drink at school, but you can drink at home. I wonder if they're...these little children are being a sunbeam for Jesus when they drink at home. If they drink